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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea/China

DATE DISTR. 30 January 1953

SUBJECT Monazite and Other Mining in North Korea

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REPORT NO.

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Monazite Mines in Ch'olsan County<sup>1</sup>

1. In January 1952 the monazite mines in the Pusŏ-myŏn (124-37, 39-45) (XE-3801) district of Ch'olsan-gun (124-40, 39-53) (XE-4216) were employing more than 20,000 laborers. The total output of the mines was being exported to the USSR in exchange for munitions.<sup>2</sup>
2. In January 1952 the mine installations were at the following locations:
  - a. The mine itself<sup>3</sup> and the laborers' compound, consisting of fifty Korean houses, were at YE-378016.
  - b. The transportation unit, with approximately 50 trucks, which were in constant use, was at YE-382013 and YE-383015. Vehicles were parked between Korean houses, which were used as transportation offices and billets for drivers.

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- c. The main office of the mine and the staff compound were at YE-392012, in twenty Korean houses and three large tin-roofed wooden buildings. These buildings accommodated 200 men each.
- d. The Ministry of Social Security and political inspection offices were at YE-394012, in two tin-roofed wooden houses. The mine maintenance offices were in a group of twenty Korean houses in the same area.
- e. The headquarters of the Ch'olsan-gun Police Detachment was at YE-433031, in a large two-story building. There were 150 policemen stationed there.

#### Monazite Mines in the Sinch'on Area<sup>4</sup>

- 3. In August 1952 the monazite fields near Nambu-myŏn (125-11, 38-27) (XC-9158) in the vicinity of XC-908624 were producing a daily average of 80 to 90 cubic meters of ore. There were 4,000 workers, divided into groups of 45 to 50. Each group was responsible for mining 1 cubic meter of ore daily. This mining operation was under the supervision of seven Soviet experts.
- 4. These workers had been mobilized in Hwanghae Province in April 1952 and included members of the Democratic Youth Association, the Democratic Women's Alliance, and farmers from each county of the province. Upon being mobilized, the workers were compelled to furnish their own bedding and enough food and money to last 1 month. They lived in tents and air-raid shelters in the mining area.
- 5. The monazite ore was being taken from the Nambu-myŏn mine fields by panning sand and sediment from the bottoms of rivers and streams in the area. Monazite deposits were also being worked at YC-040407 and YC-054454. The ore was being transported to the highways by oxcart and then transferred to trucks for shipment to P'yongyang and then transhipped to the USSR.
- 6. In mid-August 1952 a monazite mine at YC-034475 was producing 170 kilograms of ore daily. There were 480 laborers and 40 office workers employed at the mine. Most of these workers had been commandeered from Hwanghae Province. The product of the mine was being transported by truck to Sariwŏn (125-45, 38-30) (YC-4064) for transhipment to the USSR. There were 30 North Korean soldiers on guard at this mine.

#### Silver and Copper Mine at Kalch'i-ri

- 7. In late September 1952, Mine Number 705 at Kalch'i-ri (126-25, 38-43) (BT-7588) was producing an average of 6 tons of silver ore and 8 tons of copper ore daily. The ore was being transported to Fushun (123-54, 41-53), Manchuria, by way of Sinuiju. There were 340 men and 180 women workers. Daily wages were 150 won plus a daily ration of 5 hop (1 1/2 pints) of grain. 25X1

- 1. [ ] Comment. [ ]
- 2. [ ] Comment. [ ] these mines were producing 60 tons of ore daily in December 1951.
- 3. [ ] Comment. In paragraph 2 the source is apparently describing only one of the numerous mines in the Ch'olsan area. 25X1
- 4. [ ] Comment. Other monazite mines were east of those described in the present report, but also in the Sinch'on area, were described [ ]

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